

Growth Management Oversight Commission

March 23, 2006
6:00 p.m.

**Conference Room
Ken Lee Building**

MINUTES

GMOC MEMBERS PRESENT: Tripp Spethman Palma
Garcia Krogh Waters
Moya

GMOC MEMBERS ABSENT: Arroyo; Little

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Stephens, GMOC Coordinator
Leah Browder, Dep. Director Eng. Dept.
Frank Rivera, Principal Civil Engineer
Jack Griffin, Director of General Svcs.
Dave Byers, Dir. Public Works Ops.
Rabbia Phillip, Recording Secretary

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Laura Hunter, Env'l. Health Coalition

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spethman called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and the secretary called the roll. A motion to excuse the absent Commissioners was passed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 23, 2006 were approved as presented. Commissioner Palma requested revisions to the minutes of March 2, 2006 regarding the amphitheater/stage in plans for Otay Park, and the minutes were approved as revised. Commissioner Krogh abstained, as he was not present at the March 2 meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Spethman invited anyone who wished to address the Commission on items not on the agenda. Ms. Laura Hunter stated that she had comments on an agenda item and would hold her comments until that item was addressed.

4. REVIEW OF QUESTIONNAIRES

Drainage

Mark Stephens introduced the members of staff, Frank Rivera from the Engineering Department, Jack Griffin, Director of General Services, and Dave Byers, the Director of Public Works Operations. Each of these departments is involved regarding drainage, and the representatives are present to respond to the commissioners' concerns and questions. Mark distributed a list summarizing questions previously raised by the commissioners.

Dave Byers explained that the Regional Water Quality Control Board has not supported the concept of a master maintenance agreement for natural channels within the County. A consultant is being retained to recommend ways a city can address such channels within its jurisdiction. He also identified other steps Chula Vista is taking to deal with areas most in need of attention, including manual channel maintenance.

Commissioner Krogh asked about flooding just off the I-805 at Bonita Road. Staff noted that silting had occurred, and that a project is pending.

A question was also raised about access to perform necessary maintenance. Dave Byers noted that even where private property owners may have responsibility, they too are subject to permit requirements. Chairman Spethman asked if there is a recommendation that should be made by the GMOC to Council. Jack Griffin explained some of the fiscal parameters in dealing drainage issues. The City has a Storm Drain Fee, which was established in June of 1991. This Storm Drain Fee is a set amount assessed by parcel, and can only be changed through a vote of the public. It generates about \$540,000 per year.

Commissioner Tripp asked if there was enough money to undertake necessary maintenance on the points in the system that may be vulnerable. Mr. Griffin responded that televising of the entire corrugated metal pipe (CMP) system has been completed, covering some 94,000 lineal feet. Two contracts are already issued and work has begun on the most critical areas. Projects are being bid in \$300,000 increments. He also stated that the Consultant's report will be out in approximately two months, at which time they will address the more critical of the areas needing attention. The City is looking at a variety of options. Commissioner Krogh requested that the report be given to the GMOC for review. He also requested that Telegraph Canyon drainage facilities be included in the GMOC field trip for next year.

In response to the Chairman's question on how the City will address upgrading storm drainage facilities on the western side of the City when redevelopment occurs there, staff indicated that a Drainage Report would identify projects.

Mr. Spethman inquired if the GMOC should ask the Council to go to the voters with a proposed Storm Drain Fee increase, or should the Commission express a statement of concern. Mark Stephens stated that the issue, while not directly related to growth, was raised in previous GMOC Annual Reports. Under current Growth Management Program provisions, issuing a "statement of concern" is a GMOC option for thresholds that are under the jurisdiction of other agencies (e.g., water purveyors and school districts). Commissioners can, however, express their concerns and recommendations as part of the record. At this point Mark also introduced Ms. Leah Browder, Deputy Director of the Engineering Department, who had recently arrived.

The Chairman made a request on behalf of the GMOC for staff to provide a quarterly report on drainage projects. Jack Griffin suggested that providing information twice a year to coincide with the CIP budget and completion of the questionnaire for the annual report would be more workable and useful. Mr. Spethman made a motion to this effect, seconded by Commissioner Tripp and passed unanimously.

Ms. Laura Hunter representing the Environmental Health Coalition asked to speak on this agenda item. She addressed the responses to Questions #18 and #19 in the Drainage questionnaire, and recommended that a threshold to address water quality be added. Commissioner Krogh requested that this information be submitted in writing for the Commission to review. Ms. Hunter agreed to provide written comments for dissemination to the Commission. Commissioner Tripp asked if it would also be possible to get the City's environmental review staff's thoughts regarding issues raised by EHC and the recommendation to include water quality as a new threshold. Mark Stephens said he would share this information as requested with all affected City departments.

The Commission thanked staff and Ms. Hunter for their time and input.

5. COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF COMMENT – GMOC SCHEDULE

Mark Stephens noted that he had made revisions to the meeting schedule based on suggestions from previous meetings. He distributed the revised schedule. In response to an inquiry regarding follow-up questions for the Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD), Mark informed the Commission that he would contact the SUHSD staff. He also advised that the consultant working on the Growth Management Program "Top to Bottom Review", Mr. Walter Kieser of Economic and Planning Systems, had experienced a health-related problem, but he was anticipated to be back by May to assist completion of that project. The annual report is anticipated to go to Council by June. Commissioner Krogh asked if the schedule provided adequate time for the GMOC to review a draft of the

report. Mark responded that that he would build in additional opportunities for the GMOC to review various parts of the draft as they are prepared.

6. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on April 6, 2006 in the Conference Room of the Ken Lee Building, 430 F Street. (Note: The April 6 meeting was subsequently rescheduled to April 13.)

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. seconded by Commissioner Garcia, and approved unanimously.

Rabbia Phillip
Secretary

Mark Stephens
Growth Management Coordinator